<u>**Amendments to the Claims:**</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

5   1. (Currently Amended) A <u>removable memory device removably connected to a computer for</u> ~~bootable software delivery device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and~~ delivering software to the computer, the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device comprising:

a connection port for connecting in a disconnectable manner the ~~software~~
10   ~~delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device to the computer;

a microcontroller <u>located in the removable memory device and</u> coupling the connection port for controlling the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device; and

a flash memory coupling the microcontroller for storing a software;
15   wherein the microcontroller is so programmed that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 1
20   wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the software from the flash memory of the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.
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4. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 1
30   wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

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6. (Currently Amended) A <u>removable memory device removably connected to a computer for</u> ~~software delivery device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and~~ delivering software to the computer for providing software copy protection, the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device comprising:

5   a connection port for electrically connecting in a disconnectable manner the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device to the computer;

a microcontroller <u>located in the removable memory device and</u> [[,]] electrically connected to the connection port, in which an authentication program is installed for booting the computer from the

10   ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device;

a flash memory electrically connected to the microcontroller, the flash memory comprising a boot sector for booting the computer in accordance with the authentication program; and

a private program stored in the flash memory, the private program being

15   executable by the computer only after booting from the boot sector is performed;

wherein the authentication program instructs the microcontroller to return a virtual boot sector rather than the boot sector to the computer.

20   7. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 6 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the private program from the flash memory of the ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 6

25   wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.

30   10. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ <u>removable memory</u> device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.

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11. (Currently Amended) The ~~software delivery~~ removable memory device of claim 6 wherein the authentication program is stored in a read only memory of the microcontroller.

5   12. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting a software, the method comprising:

providing a ~~bootable~~ removable memory device for connecting in a disconnectable manner to a computer and delivering the software to the computer, the ~~bootable~~ removable memory device comprising a flash memory for storing the software, a connection port for connecting in a

10   disconnectable manner to the computer, and a microcontroller located in the removable memory device for executing the software with the computer via the connection port; and

programming the microcontroller in such a way that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from

15   the ~~bootable~~ removable memory device.

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